

Blackwell's Is Disgrace, Says Prison Board

Commissioners Call Island Workhouse One of Worst in State and Recommend Improvements at Once

Disease Is Big Question

Abuse of Self-Committed Drug Addicts Is Charged; Segregation Is Urgent

ALBANY, Jan. 18.—Characterizing the Correction Hospital on Blackwell's Island, formerly known as the Workhouse, as one of the "worst prisons in the state and a disgrace to the City of New York," Prison Commissioners John S. Kennedy, Leon C. Weinstein and Henry Solomon have filed a report recommending remedial action without delay.

The report is particularly severe in its arraignment of the system which sends to a prison drug addicts who apply for treatment, and calls attention to the fact that, while much exercise is the most important factor in the convalescent stage of such patients, they get virtually none on the Island. A lack of matrons—only thirteen of twenty-four appointed being available—also is criticized by the commissioners, who declare this shortage precludes proper supervision. As a result, the inmates are locked in their cells fourteen hours daily, from 4:30 p. m. to 6:30 a. m., and are given but an hour's exercise in the open air.

All kinds of inmates mingled. "The population," the report says, "is made up of workhouse and penitentiary cases, white and black, including psychopathic and feeble-minded cases, those suffering from tuberculosis, venereal diseases and drug addiction."

"Here, too, are sent the drug addicts who, charged with crime, go before a magistrate and ask to be sent to a hospital to be cured. There is a girl, eighteen years old, who was sent up for six months for vagrancy, and, although an attempt is made to segregate old women, eighty-three years old, who have served six terms and is now here a year for vagrancy. She and other old women here should be sent to the city home of some institution for the aged to spend the remainder of their lives. Seventy-five per cent of the inmates are young women between the ages of eighteen and thirty. Although an attempt is made at segregation, it is impossible of accomplishment in the prison, and all ages, kinds and conditions mingle together."

Urges System of Segregation

The following recommendations are made by the commissioners: "Remove all tubercular and venereal cases and drug addicts under treatment away from the cell block, segregating the diseased ones and providing quarters for drug addicts under treatment. Segregate further, those charged with crime and those self-committed. This can be accomplished by the speedy completion of the south wing."

Arrange for a "greater measure of outdoor exercise for all classes. Revise the rules so that inmates not be locked in cells for fourteen hours daily."

Provide plan for educational and recreational activities such as are needed in an institution containing so many young girls. "The bulk of the population," the report continues, "is made up of old cell house, built in 1852, which contains 104 cells, occupied by a population of 132. One tier had three inmates in each cell, and in the other two tiers three self-committed drug addicts in each of two cells. In eight other cells there was doubling up of self-committed drug addicts, infectious cases and tubercular cases."

No Sanitary Facilities

"There are no toilet facilities or running water in the cells or on the corridors. With three and four occupants at a time, there is the great danger of immoral practices possible among the class of women confined here. "There is no school or any evidence of training which would be conducive to encourage these women to lead a better life when released. The hope of remedying these conditions lies in the opening of the women's farm colony at Greenvale, which at present looks far in the future."

"Here, at Riker's Island, was found the complaint of self-committed drug addicts who had gone before magistrates and asked to be committed to a hospital to be cured of the awful drug addiction, and supposed they were being sent to a hospital instead of a prison, where they are treated on exactly the same basis as those committed of crime. They also complained of being held one hundred days, when they understood from the authorities that they would have to stay but sixty days. The plan of treating these self-committed drug addicts with and on the same basis as prisoners must be abandoned and cannot be defended."

Oregon Calls Mexican Congress

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 18.—A call for a special session of the Mexican Congress, beginning February 7, was issued last night by President Obregon. Among the projects to be considered are the new banking law, Article 27 of the Constitution, which governs petroleum deposits; a new labor law, army reconstruction and international commerce.

House Committee for Roosevelt 2-Cent Piece

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—A Roosevelt two-cent piece is favored by the House Coinage Committee, which to-day reported favorably a Senate bill authorizing the coin. The committee's report said there was "genuine need" for a two-cent piece, and coinage of one as proposed in the Senate bill would be "a fitting manner in which to honor the memory of a great American."

Mrs. Risk Denied Alimony Pending Separation Suit

Banker's Wife Also Asked \$5,000 for Counsel Fees and Payment of Golf and Yacht Club Dues

Mrs. Florence Risk, wife of James Risk, a wealthy banker and commission merchant of New York and Stamford, yesterday before Justice Finch was denied her application for alimony and counsel fees pending trial of her suit for separation against Mr. Risk in the Supreme Court on the ground of abandonment.

Mrs. Risk now is living at 549 Riverside Drive. Mr. Risk is at the Hotel Pennsylvania. In her application for alimony Mrs. Risk demanded \$1,500 for January, \$1,200 a month thereafter and \$5,000 for counsel fees. The items included rent, pocket money and car and chauffeur. The plaintiff also said she understood she was entitled to golf and yacht club dues and interest on the mortgage on a house in Stamford which she said Mr. Risk gave her as a wedding present. This house figures in another suit the wife has brought to compel the husband to pay off the indebtedness.

Mrs. Risk said he had allowed his wife \$200, which might be ample to support herself and pay her lawyers' charges.

Mrs. Risk was a widow, twenty years Mrs. Risk's junior, when they were married in 1920. At that time Mr. Risk was sixty years old.

In her application for alimony Mrs. Risk says her husband was a prolific writer of love letters, which she did not accept seriously until he offered her the following items if she would marry him:

A house in Stamford; his interest in the banking firm of John S. Risk & Co., 345 Broadway, which he said would bring her in \$20,000 a year; \$100,000 in cash, and \$10,000 in Liberty bonds. After their marriage, she says, her husband became quarrelsome and irritable. Last October he went to Cuba and wrote a letter saying that he had taken his life out of hers, and concluding: "I have work to do."

In answer to his wife's suit Mr. Risk said he provided well for her and would not see her in need, "but was only a question of a short time until he would state for me would make my life intolerable."

Seagoing Gamblers Again Appear on Atlantic Liner

Three Professionals on Imperator Are Warned; Merchant Beats Them for \$12,000

The golden days of the seagoing gambler, which withered with the advent of war in 1914, are beginning to bud again and the steamship companies are digging up their dusty signs warning travelers to beware of professional gamblers.

Signs of spring—the springtime of easy pickings, marked decks for bridge and poker and the loaded dice—were thrust yesterday when the Cunard liner Imperator came in from Southampton with the first grist of westbound "gentlemen gamblers."

Nobody could prove anything crooked in the smoking room. There were three men and a woman under suspicion a half hour after they had started a poker game with a \$50 limit, but there were neither fights nor accusations during or after the play.

Eddie Mallon, the Cunard line's chief detective, who "knows 'em all," watched the gangplank as the vessel unloaded its passenger complement and saw three familiar faces come ashore. When the trunks and bags were off the vessel Mallon sauntered over to each of the three men and passed along the gentle admonition to "lay off the Atlantic" as the good old days could not return.

A clothing manufacturer of this city, who passed part of his honeymoon at Monte Carlo, said he had played against the gamblers early in the game and won \$12,000. His wife, he said, had won large sums at the famous gambling palace of the Riviera.

Returned From Philadelphia As One of Hotel Astor Robbers

Carl Wehner, thirty-four years old, a waiter, was brought from Philadelphia yesterday morning and locked up in Police Headquarters, charged with being one of the trio who held up guests in the Hotel Astor on December 15. Wehner was arrested in Philadelphia on a bench warrant issued here.

His arrest is the second in connection with the sensational hotel robbery. Lawrence Hawthorne, caught at the time, was sentenced to from thirty to sixty years in prison. The police are still seeking the third hold-up man.

Drunkenness Gains 1,024% In Last Year

Magistrates' Court Records Show 77 Arrested in January for Intoxication and 866 in December

12 Months' Total 5,813

Prohibition Agents Seize Liquor Stock Valued at \$25,000 in Brooklyn

Arrests for intoxication, according to the records of the Magistrates' Courts, have increased from seventy-seven in January last to 866 in December, 1920. The total for the year is 5,813. The increase in arrests from January to December is 1,024 per cent. A list showing the arrests for intoxication made in the five boroughs in the last year, follows:

	Manhattan	Brooklyn	Richmond	Queens	Total
Jan.	77	28	2	5	112
Feb.	181	107	14	8	310
Mar.	214	114	14	8	450
Apr.	249	121	14	9	593
May	244	130	15	9	498
June	281	124	22	8	435
July	307	145	22	12	486
Aug.	307	145	22	12	486
Sept.	307	145	22	12	486
Oct.	307	145	22	12	486
Nov.	307	145	22	12	486
Dec.	866	547	54	18	1,485
Total	3,863	2,570	217	92	6,742

Leopold Arraigned

In 1917 there were 14,182 arrests, in 1918 there were 7,284 and in 1919 there were 5,657.

Charles Leopold, president and treasurer of the Leopold & Co., wholesale liquor dealers at 644 Fourth Avenue, was arraigned yesterday before United States Commissioner Samuel Hitchcock, charged with defrauding the government.

Leopold was arrested Monday night by Harold Dobbs, an Internal Revenue agent. The complaint alleges that Leopold was implicated in fraudulent liquor withdrawals. He demanded an examination, and the date set for it was January 24.

A jury in General Sessions before Judge Charles C. Nott yesterday acquitted Leopold of the charge of defrauding the government, charged with extorting \$100 from Ernest Suss, an Italian wine dealer, of 52 Mulberry Street. It took the jury two minutes to reach its verdict.

Ex-Alderman Alexander Drescher, counsel for Leopold, told the jury that Suss had admitted six violations of the Volstead act, and contended that his client had incurred the penalty of the Mulberry Street Italians because of his vigorous enforcement of the liquor law.

Whisky and Gin Seized

Whisky and gin valued at \$25,000 were confiscated yesterday in a raid at 355 Ralph Avenue, Brooklyn, by prohibition agents.

Franco Scanzino, of 76 Forsyth Street, Manhattan, was arrested for possessing liquor in violation of the Volstead act. The authorities say that he had bought the whisky for \$3,000 and the gin for \$5,000 from two men he did not know.

He was arraigned before Commissioner McGoldrick and held in \$2,500 bail for a hearing.

Judge Mayer Ignores Attack by Burlingame

Receiver Garrison of B. R. T. Says Senator's Criticism Was Good Publicity for Lines

Federal Judge Julius H. Mayer yesterday declined to offer any reply to attacks in the State Senate upon him by Senator Alva W. Burlingame Jr., of Brooklyn, but Lindley M. Garrison, receiver for the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, was prompt in replying to the charges made by the legislator.

Following a conference at the receiver's office in New York Mr. Garrison said:

"I have not the pleasure of Senator Burlingame's acquaintance, and do not even know to which party he belongs. I wish that he had not indulged in any attack upon the courts. It seems to me at this time of unrest it is unwise for prominent men in prominent places to lend any aid to those who would overthrow the forces of law and order. I would, of course, rather be praised than blamed, but if blame cast upon me is the only way in which the desperate situation of the trolley companies in Brooklyn can be brought to the attention of the public, then I am much indebted to Senator Burlingame and any others who in this manner or in any other manner will bring it to public attention."

"The fact is that there either has

got to be less service or more money to enable us to give better service. Eventually this has got to be settled by the state of public opinion. Suffering attacks goes with my job, and if, by attacking me, those in the political game can succeed in bringing this matter to the attention of the public, a very good end will have been served."

Col. Greene Quits As Highway Chief; Sisson Gets Place

Commissioner Resigns, as He Agreed to Do Before Election, Should Governor Ask Him to Step Out

From a Staff Correspondent. ALBANY, Jan. 18.—Colonel Frederick Stuart Greene, of Sands Point, to-day handed Governor Miller his resignation as State Highway Commissioner, to take effect February 1. The Governor immediately appointed Herbert H. Sisson, of Buffalo, present State Excise Commissioner, to serve for the remaining three years of Commissioner Greene's term. The position pays \$10,000 a year. The appointment of Commissioner Sisson, whose department is being legislated out of existence, was made on the recommendation of Frederick Greiner, Erie County Republican leader.

Before election Commissioner Greene told Mr. Miller that in the event of the judge's election as Governor he would quit his post should the Governor so desire. The Governor yesterday took Commissioner Greene at his word and sent him a letter requesting his resignation.

"Prior to election," said the Governor in his letter to Commissioner Greene, you will recall expressing the view to me that your department in the state government, the Highway Department, should be in thorough accord with the Governor, and you said that in case of my election your resignation would be at my disposal on January 1. "You have since January 1 repeated that statement and have said that your resignation would be handed to me on my request. I concur in your view, and, after careful consideration, the subject, having in mind the policies which I wish to inaugurate with respect to the administration of the Highway Department, I have decided to ask for your resignation. This request is made solely for the reason above stated, which we are both agreed should be controlling."

Harding Letter Hints Wilson Muddled Treaty

Declares for "Workable" as Distinguished From Bungling Peace Agreement

John A. Stewart, chairman of the board of governors of the Sulgrave Institution, gave out a letter from President-elect Warren G. Harding yesterday which lays stress on the part English speaking peoples will play in the wisdom of America is summoned to assist the world in building a workable, as distinguished from a bungling, agreement or association for the prevention of war.

The text of the letter, which is relative to the work of the Sulgrave Institution, is as follows:

"The labor of uniting into still closer amity and understanding the English speaking peoples of the world has a significance of good to all Americans and to all nations and races of the world. "Destiny has made it a historical fact that the English-speaking peoples have been the instrument, through which civilization has been flung to the far corners of the globe. I am impressed not so much by the glory that English-speaking people may take to themselves, as by the profound duties that God has thrust upon them—duties of being restrained, tolerant and just. These duties will find their greatest recognition in a united, unshakable friendship and understanding and oneness of purpose, not for the exclusion from brotherhood of others, but for a better brotherhood flowing toward others."

"I believe that when the wisdom of America is summoned to assist the world in building a workable, as distinguished from a bungling, agreement or association for the prevention of war, unity of the English-speaking peoples will play no small part, not to invade the rights or exclude the relationship of other nations, but to protect and include them."

"Faithfully yours, "WARREN G. HARDING."

\$15,000 in Drugs And Four Seized In Brooklyn Raid

Detective Working on Docks as Stevedore Gets Clew that Leads to Arrests; Dope From Europe

Detectives of the Narcotic Division, who last week caught big drug peddlers by posing as drug addicts, yesterday by the same trick brought into a Brooklyn court four men charged with selling drugs.

The men described themselves as Vincent Lucadamo, thirty-one years old, of 154 Flushing Avenue; Tony Damato, twenty-two years old, of 301 Hudson Avenue; Frederick De Ambrosio, of 184 Navy Street, and John Lavelle, nineteen years old, of 312 Hudson Avenue. In arresting them the detectives also seized morphine valued at \$15,000.

Dr. Carleton Simon, Special Deputy Police Commissioner, yesterday told how the alleged dope peddlers were trapped.

Convinced that the narcotic drug trade had its source in foreign countries, Dr. Simon determined to get proof through a scrutiny of incoming vessels. He had Detective Milford Moffett get a job as a stevedore. Moffett's chance came when an Italian learned off the deck of an Italian liner carrying in his hand a package covered with cloth almost to the top. The parrot was too quiet to suit Moffett. He followed the cage to 240 High Street. Moffett testified in court and at that address, through his acquaintance with longshoremen, was able to obtain lodgings and to note the presence of the drug addicts.

Moffett testified at yesterday's session of the court that he was followed by Detective John Johnschauld and Captain Henry Sherb, of the narcotic division, call at the house on Monday night, and as if by accident, found Detective Cubbage in the hallway apparently in a stupor. The plan worked well. When Moffett expressed the opinion that some dope would benefit Cubbage and that he would go out to get it, he was seized by the big cage, which they expected to pay \$10,000, he said, and arrested four men.

These men were held in \$2,000 bail each by United States Commissioner McGoldrick, charged with violating the Harrison narcotic law.

Hospital Board Welcomes Inquiry, Coler Declares

Asserts Trustees Rejected Boilers for Fordham Institution on Engineers' Advice

Bird S. Coler, Commissioner of Public Welfare and an ex-officio member of the board of trustees of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, said yesterday if an investigation was made as a result of the report made to the Mayor by David Hirschfeld, Commissioner of Accounts, demanding that the hospital trustees reverse their action in rejecting a contract for boilers for the new Fordham Hospital or be placed on charges with a view to removal for incompetency, he felt certain it would result in the removal of "some one else not connected with the board or trustees."

Commissioner Coler declared that the board of trustees would welcome an investigation by the Lockwood committee. The board, on the recommendation of the engineers it employed in building the new hospital, rejected three boilers which were delivered and were to have been installed by the contractors at a cost of \$35,500. It was felt that the type of boiler supplied by the contractors did not fulfill the requirements of the plans and specifications, and was of a cheaper grade than those specified in the plans.

Brothers Seized in Theft Of \$50,000 Merchandise

Whisky Found in Offices of Trucking Company and Third Person Is Arrested

Edward O'Connor, twenty-four years old, a teamster living at 455 West Thirty-sixth Street, was arraigned before United States Commissioner Hitchcock yesterday in connection with the theft of merchandise valued at \$50,000 from the government, in whose care it had been left for appraisal.

A confession which O'Connor made to Maxwell J. Mattuck, Assistant United States Attorney, led to the arrest of O'Connor, and to the arrest of Michael J. O'Connor, twenty-four years old, who met the Klemas brothers and then go to Pier 88 after goods. Later these goods would be sold. It is charged specifically that the Klemas brothers acted in collusion with O'Connor in the theft of seventeen cases of bric-a-brac valued at \$10,000 from Pier 88, North River, on October 25, 1920.

In searching the Klemas trucking offices last night the detectives found twenty cases of whisky and immediately arrested another of the Klemas brothers, James, twenty-eight years old, on a charge of violating the prohibition law. He will be turned over to the Federal authorities to-day.

Bail Expert Is Heard

R. H. Towner Says Acceptance of Criminal Risks Is New

Rutherford H. Towner, author of "Fidelity and Surety and Bond Undertaking," a work used as an authority by surety companies, was the principal witness at yesterday's session of the bail bond inquiry at the Criminal Courts Building. He stated that the practice of furnishing bail bonds for burglars, highwaymen and other criminals was of comparatively recent origin, having been adopted about twelve years ago.

Mr. Towner told Magistrate Simpson that if a flat rate were fixed to cover all bail cases it would prevent much extortion by bonding agents and private persons furnishing bonds. It was brought out at previous hearings that bondsmen frequently charge 5 per cent.

Other witnesses complained of the practice of bonding agents making so-called "extra charges" for obtaining bail for a defendant at night. It was testified that these charges are sometimes highly extortionate.

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Untermeyer Asks Inquiry On Palmer

(Continued from first page)

the time of the enactment of the alien property custodian law.

"I believe also that an investigation of the activities of the secret service of the Department of Justice before and during the war will develop the fact that it did little except rely largely on the reports of the British secret service that were gathered by that government in our country before we entered the war and to pay off the grudges and play its game and induce us to intern the unfortunates who had incurred its enmity before we entered the war."

Mr. Untermeyer was explicit in his description of how such an investigation should be carried on. It must be carried on, he said, under skillful, searching and strictly non-partisan direction with the aid of experienced counsel. He advocated the greatest care in the preparation of all data for such an investigation, pointing out that the honor of the nation rested on the slightest indiscretion.

He particularly warned against being fooled by hasty repentance. "We will do well to keep a close watch upon the eleven-hour appearance of repentance which the Department of Justice is now staging in the form of a belated enforcement of the anti-trust laws under the very able and respectable auspices of Messrs. Rand and Krotel."

League of Women Voters Here Indorses Direct Primaries

The League of Women Voters of New York City last night unanimously approved the direct primary as giving the people fuller participation in the nomination of candidates and called on the Governor and Legislature to oppose any attempt that may be made to do away with the primary system. The resolution was adopted following a discussion of the direct primary at Pilgrimage Hall, Fifty-sixth Street and Broadway.

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